Thereafter, these units were run as per the requirements of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) and stopped generation on 4th July, 2006.

(c) RGPPL having fulfilled its one-time commitment to supply infirm power of 3 Million Units during May/June, 2006 and in the absence of further demand for power 1 MSEDCL on Naphtha, the units have been kept in reserve shut down mode. As per the one tir arrangement between RGPPL and MSEDCL, infirm power was supplied @ Rs. 4.25/KWH.

Indo-Bhutanese Hydro-Electric Project

†653. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has mooted the joint venture route for financing new bilateral Indo-Bhutanese Hydro-electric Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) It has been accepted 'in principle' by India and Bhutan that Joint Venture route could be explored for Punatsangchuu-II and Mangdechu hydro electric projects in Bhutan.

Cost of Power Generation in Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd.

†654. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is needed to reduce the cost of generation of the electricity in the project of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that now the generation cost of the project has been unviable;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the measures so far taken by Government to reduce the cost of generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The main fuel for the plant which is LNG is likely to be available only after March 2007. In the interim period, efforts are being made by Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited to operate the plant on Naphtha. Since prevalent Naphtha prices are very high, the Government of India have given exemption from payment of customs duty for the import of Naphtha for use by the plant, so as to reduce its cost of generation on Naphtha and make it acceptable to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

Lighting-up of villages through LEDs.

655. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the help of World Bank, it is proposed to light up a number of villages located for away from the grid power, in the tribal belt of Koraput district of Orissa, through LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a project was implemented elsewhere and has proved a success;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time-frame within which all the villages in the Orissa would be lighted up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As reported by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) there is no proposal for World Bank assistance for LED based lighting systems in those villages which are located far away from grid power.

(c) No such project has been implemented.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply at "c" above.